



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

November Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



Since we just had Confirmation Sunday, I started reminiscing about my own Confirmation way too many years ago. What I remember most was that after being confirmed, I was considered an adult in the church, even though I was only in 9th grade.



I took that very seriously. I learned that I was able to vote at Congregational Meetings, and I looked forward to the upcoming Annual Meeting. (In retrospect, this was one of the first hints of me becoming a lifetime "church nerd.") I was given my first Time & Talent sheet and felt mind-blown that my church might trust me to read the Bible lessons in worship, sing in the adult choir, even be an Assisting Minister. So I signed up for all three.

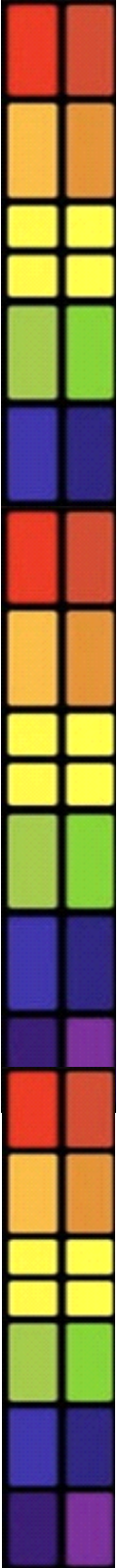
But what I remember most was receiving my first box of offering envelopes. Now, I'd given offerings before. My parents always set out quarters for my sisters and me to give in Sunday School or in worship. But when I held that box with my name on it, filled with dozens of envelopes, I felt important. I felt grown-up. I even felt excited. Because, at age 14, I had the opportunity to be generous. I didn't have much money. But each time I babysat, I made sure that I put a dollar or two in an offering envelope. And I felt joyful. I was able to contribute to something bigger than myself. Much bigger than myself.

The Church is such a unique place because it's not just a place where we come to receive something. It's not just a place where we come to give something. We come here to receive God's grace, to give thanks, to share our gifts, to participate in community, to grow in faith, to serve others, to be lifted up and challenged. Each one of us has been uniquely blessed. There are ways for each one of us to participate, help, and get engaged in this community of faith. And as you generously share your gifts, we hope you'll receive joy, fulfillment, and love.

If you haven't already, you'll be receiving a mailing from Grace's Stewardship Committee. We invite you to consider how you might share your gifts with our Grace community in the future. We encourage you to detach the Commitment Card, prayerfully fill it out, and bring it to worship on November 8 or bring/send it back to Grace when you're able. You help to make Grace Lutheran Church what it is, and we're grateful for you.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





All Saints Sunday

Join us for worship on All Saints Sunday, November 1st, as we celebrate those who have passed away in the last year and are now saints in God's kingdom.

Prayer Chain

Did you know Grace has an E-mail Prayer Chain? Each week, those on the Prayer Chain receive a list of folks to pray for from both our congregation, and those connected to our members. If you're not already on the Prayer Chain and want to join, please contact the church office – gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com



Thanksgiving Eve Service

You are invited to attend Deerfield Lutheran Church's Thanksgiving Eve service and Pie Social on Wed. November 25 at 6:30 pm. All are invited to join the community Choir sing that night. Rehearsal will be prior to service, beginning at 5:45pm. Pie will follow the service.

Reflecting on our Gifts



As we reflect on the many ways our church serves our congregation and community, we invite everyone to prayerfully consider their giving and the impact it makes. If you made a pledge last year, please take a moment to review your commitment and consider whether you are on track with your pledged amount, or if your circumstances have changed. Every gift, large or small, helps support the ministries, programs, and fellowship that make our church special. Thank you for being part of our church family and for giving generously as you are able.

Want to Worship from Home? Here's How!

Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 on at 9am. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page.

Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>



Want to help with Evangelism and reach out to individuals seeking comfort through God's word? Please see Marcia Klemp.

Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri. Variable additional hours are available; please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment (608)423-3135 or via email at gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

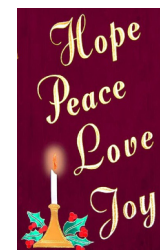


New Benches Around Grace

A big thanks to Grace member Sam Grender for building 3 benches for Grace as a part of his Eagle Scout project. Check them out; they're beautiful!

Don't Forget to Save Those Pig Receipts!

If you bring your Cambridge Piggly Wiggly receipts to church, Grace gets back 1% of what you spent! It's an easy way to help support a local business AND your congregation. Receipts can be left in the marked drawer of the table in the main entrance vestibule.



Adult Education

On November 2, we'll finish our study of the ELCA social statement, "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All."

Then on November 30, we'll begin a 4-week Advent series, focusing on the biblical foundations of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Join us for any or all these classes, Monday nights at 7 pm.

Men's Coffee Group Meets

The Men's Coffee Hour will meet on Tuesday, November 10th, from 8-9 am in the Fellowship Area. The topic focusing our conversation this month will be "Sharing Your Faith Journey," with participants invited to talk briefly about the various influences, people, or incidents which have played a role in shaping their religious or spiritual life. Grace men, please join us!



Sheets and Fabric Needed!

Grace Quilters are in great need of clean, stain-free, cotton sheets. Please consider donating sheets by bringing them to the church office.



Any sewers who may have unused fabric around, please remember you can donate unneeded fabric to Grace. Monetary donations are also welcome to offset the cost of fabric and batting. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS



Nov 1 -	Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Reader: Betty Reay Communion Servers: Betty Reay & Sharon Erb Acolytes: Josephine Rue & Avery Schutte Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle Coffee Hour: Beaver & Holzhuetter	Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Nov 8 -	Ushers: Pat Hall & Connie Kreuser Reader: Josh Mabie Communion Servers: Felix Egli & Marcia Klemp Acolytes: Corbin Klemp & Everett Martin Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle Coffee Hour: Hussey & Hausz	Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Nov 15 -	Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepp Reader: Mandi Buonincontro Communion Servers: Mandi Buonincontro & Angie Bauer Williams Acolytes: Emmett Koehler & Paige Neuenschwander Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle Coffee Hour: Marsden & Bauer Williams	Assisting Minister: Tim Neuenschwander
Nov 22 -	Ushers: Richard & Jean Scott Reader: Sandy Aston Hall Communion Servers: Diane Russo & Marcia Klemp Acolytes: Maddie & Billy Becker Communion Set Up: Geis Family Coffee Hour: Buonincontro & Scott	Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebe
Nov 29 -	Ushers: Northey & Key Families Reader: Mary Bielefeldt Communion Servers: Rich & Diane Fronek Acolytes: Maddie & Billy Becker Communion Set Up: Pat Northey Coffee Hour: Jeffers & TBD	Assisting Minister: Tim Neuenschwander

Altar Guild - Brenda, Haven, and Cally Lovick

OCTOBER AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
NOV 1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	3	4 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30 am Quilters	10 8 am Men's Coffee Group 7 pm COUNCIL MEETING	11 9 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation	12 12 noon Staff Mtg	13 Newsletter content due	14
15 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 am Quilters	17	18 6:30 pm Confirmation	19	20	21
22 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 am Quilters	24	25 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service at Deerfield Lutheran Church	26 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am NO Sunday School 10:15am Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	DEC 1	2 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation	3	4	5



First Communion

On October 11th we celebrated the First Communion of Ansel, TJ, Olivia, Everett, Eliza, Maddie, Abbie, Liam, and Keegan. Congratulations to these young members of Grace on this exciting milestone in their faith! Special thank you to Jill Jensen for donating her time and talents again this year, helping the students prepare their chalices and baking bread for communion.



What We're Learning

It's time to start planning for Christmas! This month we will shift gears to focus on the birth of Jesus and plan for our Christmas Program on December 20th! Please mark your calendars to join us in worship to once again celebrate the Christmas story with our Sunday School kids.

Our lessons will focus on the fact that many families hit the road during the Christmas season, whether it's to visit loved ones or take a much-needed break. It's a time-honored tradition-one that might even be traced back to the first Christmas when a bright star dropped a pin on a special location to guide people to the birthplace of the savior. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that God gives people to guide us, God gives hope to guide us, God gives a Savior to guide us, and God gives direction to guide us.



Confirmation Corner

Mentor Night this month will be Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. Students and mentors should attend together or set another time to meet.

A big A big congratulations to the 8 youth who affirmed their baptismal promises on October 18 – George Albrecht, August Cih, Will Gottschalk, Paxton Koehler, Jackson Rue, Blake Schutte, Kinsley Stenjem, and Ashton Thayer.



Christmas Food Baskets



The Outreach Committee is collecting full-size cake mixes for the Christmas Holiday Food Baskets being distributed by the Cambridge Food Pantry. The pantry is requesting 100 mixes, any flavor, any brand is appreciated. Collection of the cake mixes will run until December 3rd, or earlier if we reach our goal sooner. The food baskets help make the holidays a little brighter for some local families. Donations may be placed on the table or in the collection box located in Fellowship Hall. If you prefer, you can contribute cash, or you can use Venmo. Just mark the entry as "Food Baskets" and we will shop for you.

Thank you to everyone who contributed flavored rice box mixes for the Thanksgiving Holiday Food Baskets, which will be distributed by the Food Pantry in mid-November. Your continued support and generosity for our financially struggling neighbors is appreciated!

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 8, 2026**

(Minutes will be reviewed & approved at next Council meeting)

Call to Order. President Kris Tobias called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Attendance. Present: Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Steve Bielefeldt, Marcia Klemp, Amy Simdon, Richard Scott, John Jensen, Julie Leser, Kristin Rue, Judy Heidebrecht, Janet Koepp, Kris Tobias. **Absent:** Peggy Punsel, Connie Kreuser.

Devotions. Judy reflected on the miracles of God's creation, starting with Genesis 1:1. From the entire natural world to the intricacies of the human body, everything is part of God's amazing plan.

Approval of Minutes. Julie moved to approve the September meeting minutes. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by those who attended the September meeting.

Approval of Agenda. Janet moved to approve the agenda. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Pastor passed around two thank you notes. The Cambridge High School football coach thanked us for feeding the team at the October community meal, and the CAP Food Pantry thanked us for a recent donation.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net loss of \$8,522 in September, giving us a year-to-date loss of \$18,240. Our General Giving through September was \$199,205 which was \$5,515 less than 2025 and \$22,045 less than the 2026 budget. The YTD Special Giving through September of \$19,221 was \$2,235 more than last year and \$4,779 less than the budget. Our YTD expenses through September of \$239,598 were \$11,678 more than last year and \$8,591 under budget. The checking account balance of \$75,442 on 9/30/26 was \$8,612 less than at the end of August and \$14,147 less than this time last year with the general fund balance approximately \$8,905 less. Amy noted there were three payrolls in September. In general, expenses are up and giving is down. A short article in the November newsletter will report on this subject, and we usually have good giving in December. Marcia moved to approve this report and send it to audit. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Last Sunday was first communion for 5 th graders; on Oct. 18 we will have eight confirmands. At this time no one is interested in attending the ELCA youth gathering next summer.

Committee Reports. (Provided in writing and/or discussed in the meeting as needed.)

• **Stewardship.** The annual stewardship program and pledge drive has kicked off. Weekly speakers will focus on the 5G theme. A giving graph has been prepared for information purposes, showing the range of donations by average weekly amounts and number of people who give within each range. Commitment Sunday is Nov. 8.

- **Education.** Kristin reported that Sunday School is off and running. Enrollment remains about the same. She would like someone from Property to look at a stained ceiling tile in one of the classrooms.
- **Property.** Sam Grender has delivered the three benches he built for an Eagle Scout project. Several lights along the north sidewalk are now working..
- **Outreach.** Judy reported that we will collect flavored rice packages for the Food Pantry
- Thanksgiving baskets and cake mixes for the Christmas baskets.

Old Business.

- **Compliance & Security Task Force.** Nothing to report.
- **Street & Drainage Construction.** The Town of Oakland has completed the project.
- **Pastor's Health Insurance -- 2027 Portico.** The annual enrollment has been completed.
- **Community meal.** With food provided by the Rusty Mexican Grill and the Keystone Restaurant, we served a record number of people on Oct 1 at the middle school, despite smaller kitchen and dining spaces. Each restaurant received \$400. Thrivent Financial gave a grant of \$250, resulting in a net cost of \$550 to Grace.
- **Donated equipment from the Twin Cities.** Pick-up and delivery dates are being worked out, and the cost of the truck is being covered. Breah Klemp added some requests for the Sunday School areas.
- **Fall Programming & Event Calendar.** Pastor handed out a new draft. Let Catherine or Pastor know about any further additions or changes.

New Business.

- **Budget planning for 2027.** Amy needs preliminary spending numbers from the committees by Nov. 1 to start work on the budget.

Adjournment. Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 PM. Kristin will have the devotion.

Submitted by Janet Koepp, Council Secretary

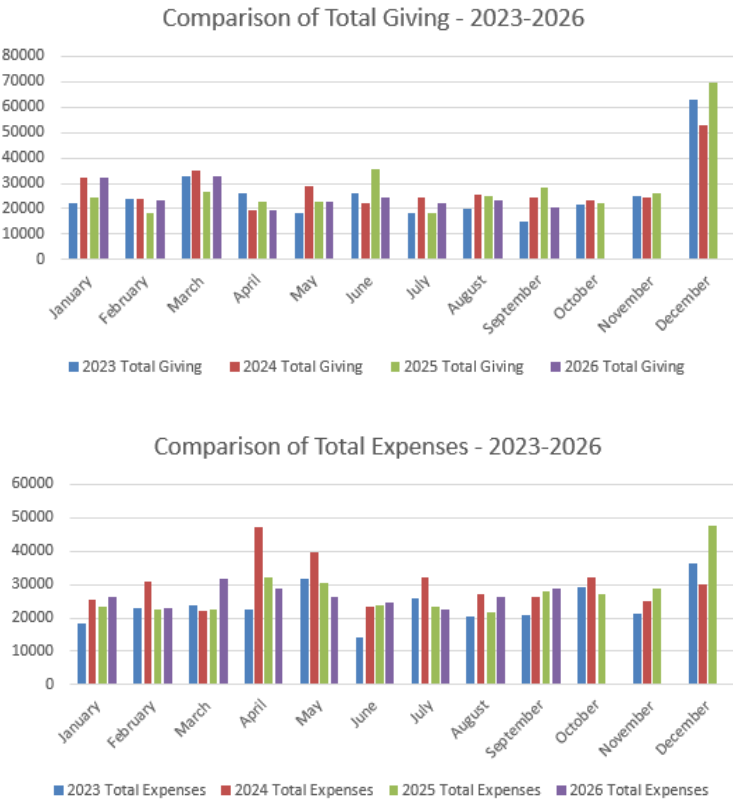


From the Treasurer

September 2026 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date September 2026 Actual	Year-to-date 2026 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	199,205	221,250	(22,045)
Special Giving	19,221	24,000	(4,779)
Misc Income	2,932	2,936	(4)
Total Income	221,358	248,186	(26,828)
Expenses			
Administrative	84,829	86,563	(1,734)
Mission	34,956	39,000	(4,044)
Pastoral	115,319	114,661	658
Program	4,494	7,965	(3,471)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	239,598	248,189	(8,591)
Total Net Income(Loss)	(18,240)	(3)	(18,237)

Reflecting on Our Gifts



STAFF

- Pastor** Jennifer Jelinek Cell: (608) 295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
- Admin Assistant** Catherine Seaborg (608) 423-3135 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
- Christian Ed Coordinator** Breah Klemp christianedu.glc@gmail.com
- Volunteer Coordinator** Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com
- Financial Secretary** Diane Russo Cell: (847) 826-0131 gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
- Organist** Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com
- Handbell Choir Director** Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

COUNCIL

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Vice President</u> Steve Bielefeldt | <u>Hospitality</u> Peggy Punsel |
| <u>Secretary</u> Janet Koepp | <u>Evangelism</u> Marcia Klemp |
| <u>Treasurer</u> Amy Simdon | <u>Worship</u> Julie Leser |
| <u>Outreach</u> Judy Heidebrecht | <u>Property</u> John Jensen |
| <u>Education</u> Kristin Rue | <u>Property</u> Richard Scott |
| <u>Stewardship</u> Connie Kreuser | |



Grace Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
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